

March 31, 2021

Re: Amendments to the Facilitating Strengthened Adherence with COVID-19 Screening and Testing Requirements (Amending Letter)

Dear Long-Term Care Home Licensees:

This letter amends the terms and conditions in the funding letter of January 19, 2021 regarding the *Facilitating Strengthened Adherence with COVID-19 Screening and Testing Requirements* (Original Funding Letter).

The terms and conditions in the Original Funding Letter are amended effective immediately as follows:

Eligibility Requirements

Funding is no longer restricted to long-term care (LTC) home licensees who use the province's Vendor of Record (VoR) for Security Guards or Temporary Help Agency or to specific LTC home licensees that were eligible for an allowable VoR exception. Rather, the eligibility criteria for funding under the Testing Adherence Program (i.e., third party oversight) is expanded to provide funding for Screeners provided the following conditions are met:

- a. Each Screener is a dedicated person hired or retained by the licensee for the purpose of ensuring that people entering LTC homes adhere to applicable screening and testing requirements in CMOH Directive #3, the Minister's Directive and other related COVID-19 policies and guidance, as further described in the Original Funding Letter (Screening Services).
- b. The Screener fulfills the Screening Services:
 - a. directly or
 - b. oversees Screening Services:
 - i. completed by a screening kiosk or
 - ii. completed by a Screener hired or retained by the LTC home or
 - iii. completed by an employee of the LTC home who was not hired for the dedicated purpose of providing Screening Services.

The amendments to funding eligibility apply to the eligible costs of Screeners during the period January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

Reporting Requirements

The section of the Original Funding Letter that circumscribed the record maintenance and final report content requirements is replaced with the following requirements:

LTC home licensees shall create and maintain records to document information in a final report, including:

- Number of Screeners providing Screening Services under the Testing Adherence Program;
- Number of eligible work hours by Screeners providing Screening Services under the Testing Adherence Program;
- Total expenditure on Screeners providing Screening Services under the Testing Adherence Program; and
- Eligible expenditure on Screeners providing services under the Testing Adherence Program.

The ministry will be collecting information in the near future on the use of the funds as per above for the period commencing January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021.

Unless otherwise defined in this Amending Letter, all capitalized terms used in this Amending Letter have the meanings set out in the Original Funding Letter. By accepting this funding, the LTC Licensee acknowledges that it shall have no power or authority to bind the Ministry or to assume or create any obligation or responsibility, express or implied, on behalf of the Ministry. The Screeners (and any vendor that provides Screeners) shall not hold itself out as an agent, partner or employee of the Ministry. Nothing in this Amending Letter or in the Original Funding Letter shall have the effect of creating an employment, partnership or agency relationship between the Ministry and the LTC Licensee (or any of the Licensee's personnel, employees, contractors or sub-contractors) or constitute an appointment under the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006*, S.O. 2006, c. 35, Schedule A, as amended.

All other terms and conditions of the Original Funding Letter will remain the same. In consideration of the foregoing, the funding is amended as set out in this Amending Letter, unless you advise me within 60 days of the date of this Amending Letter that the LTC home licensee does not agree to the funding on the amended terms and conditions.

Sincerely,



Sheila Bristo
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division
Ministry of Long-Term Care

Attachment

c:

Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Policy Division
Abby Dwosh, Director, Funding and Programs Branch
Anita Hooper, Director, Operational Policy and Implementation Branch
Jim Yuill, Director, Financial Management Branch